



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

KINSHIP CARE MONTH

- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is dedicated to ensuring that its children and youth grow in stable households that provide a nurturing and comforting environment; and
- WHEREAS: More than 2.9 million kinship care households reside in the United States. These families are composed of blood and non-blood relatives who have taken on the role as the primary caregiver after a life-altering occasion; and
- WHEREAS: More than 260,000 of Georgia's grandparents live with their grandchildren despite older relative caregivers being significantly more likely to have a disability and face economic hardship; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia offers many services to kinship residents, including legal, financial, and medical assistance; child care; support groups; respite care; and educational resources; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia General Assembly has advocated for and increased financial support to relative caregivers in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia is becoming a Kin First state, and the Division of Family and Children Services seeks to place 50 percent of children who enter foster care with a relative by 2019; and
- WHEREAS: In kinship care, the child benefits greatly but through the unselfish dedication of the caregiver, the state profits as well. Kinship caregivers are key in the prevention of foster care placements and therefore save the state valuable resources; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2017 as KINSHIP CARE MONTH in Georgia in an effort to celebrate kinship and encourage Georgia's citizens to recognize and appreciate the commitment and sacrifices of these families.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 24th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF